

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 15, 2008, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-16. Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 16, canceled claims 5-8 and 13, and added new claims 17-21. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been modified to clarify the subject matter to which they are directed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to describe the original transaction document as being “selected from the group consisting of an invoice and a vendor bill” (see original claim 5) and as containing transactions that are “selected from the group consisting of a product sale, a credit to an account and a debit to an account” (page 16, lines 8-10). Claim 1 also clarifies that the new transaction document “includes all of the transactions contained in the original transaction document.” That is, the new transaction document is a “a copy” of the original transaction document. Finally, claim 1 has been amended to include the nullifying step that was previously presented in claim 6.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to describe the original transaction document as an invoice (see original claim 13) that contains original transactions that are each “selected from the group consisting of a product sale, a credit to an account and a debit to an account” (page 16, lines 8-10). The new transaction document is described as including the “non-modified original transactions and the at least one modified original transaction.” Finally, the posting step e) has been clarified to indicate that the “the non-modified original transactions and the at least one modified transaction of the new transaction document [are posted] in the general ledger.”

New claim 17 is similar to amended claim 1 except that the nullifying step d) corresponds to that previously presented in claim 7. New claims 18-21 are directed to subject matter that was previously presented in claims 2-4 and 8, respectively.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Kaplan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584, 453). Applicant respectfully believes that the rejections can be withdrawn for the reasons provided below.

Kaplan et al., even when combined with the other references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action, fail to disclose “generating a new transaction document that is a copy of the original transaction document in response to a command to edit the original transaction document, wherein the new transaction document includes all of the transactions contained in the original transaction document, and the transactions of the original transaction document are selected from the group consisting of a product sale, a credit to an account and a debit to an account”, as provided in claim 1. In particular, the source and target accounts of Kaplan et al. are unrelated to the claimed original and new transaction documents at least because they are neither an invoice nor a vendor bill. Also, Kaplan et al. do not disclose that the cited target account is a copy of the source account that includes all of the transactions of the source account. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Kaplan et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 4 can also be withdrawn, for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to independent claim 1, from it depends.

With regard to independent claim 9, Kaplan et al., even when combined with the other references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action, do not disclose the opening of an invoice (i.e., saved original transaction document), “modifying at least one of the original transactions (i.e., sale, a credit, or a debit) in the original transaction document” and “saving the modified original transaction document as a new transaction document in the computer storage medium, wherein the new transaction document includes the non-modified original transactions and the at least one modified original transaction,” as provided in independent claim 9. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, the rejections of claims 12 and 14-16 can also be withdrawn, for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to independent claim 9, from which they depend.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (as being unpatentable over Kaplan et al., in view of Land et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,807, 533)). Applicant respectfully believes that the rejections of the claims can be withdrawn at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to independent claims 1 and 9, from which they depend.

New Claims

New claims 17-20 are believed to be allowable in view of the references cited by the Examiner at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

Request for Express Identification of Elements

In the event that any one of the pending claims is rejected in a subsequent Office Action, that the Examiner specifically identify the particular elements of any cited reference that correspond to the elements provided in the claim. Applicant also requests that the Examiner expressly describe how each of the cited elements has the identical relationship to the other cited elements as provided in the claim. This basic information is essential to clearly conveying the Examiner's rationale for the rejections and for narrowing issues for appeal.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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